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TAGS: PFOR ETRD EFIN UR PFO PL

SUBJECT: GIEREK'S BRIEF VISIT TO MOSCOW--ECONOMIC REASONS?

REF: A. WARSAW 6414 B. MOSCOW 15737

1. SUMMARY: CONTENTS OF JOINT SOVIET-POLISH COMMUNIQUE, PLUS OTHER INFORMATION, INDICATE THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF DECEMBER 17-19 VISIT TO MOSCOW BY POLISH PARTY LEADER GIEREK MAY HAVE BEEN ECONOMIC--PLAN COORDINATION, SOVIET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR KATOWICE STEEL PROJECT, ECONOMIC-SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION UNDER CEMA COMPLEX PROGRAM. DETENTE AND SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY WERE PLAYED UP IN STANDARD LANGUAGE. END SUMMARY

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2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE, PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA DECEMBER 20,

LEADS OFF WITH ECONOMIC SUBJECTS, ITS MAIN THEME BEING ECONOMIC INTEGRATION THROUGH THE NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN, "ECONOMIC, AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON BASIS OF CLOSE COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR FORTHCOMING FIVE-YEAR PERIOD." THERE IS ALSO MENTION OF AGREEMENT ON "NEED TO FURTHER CARRY OUT SPECIFIC MEASURES IN COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DESIGN WORK." REFERENCE IS MADE TO CEMA COMPLEX PROGRAM FOR SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND IN THAT CONNECTION TO IMPORTANCE OF DECISIONS REACHED AT CRIMEAN SUMMIT IN JULY 1973.

3. ON DECEMBER 19, BEFORE PUBLICATON OF COMMUNIQUE, EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY EAST EUROPEAN SOURCE THAT VISIT WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS--COORDINATION OF NEXT FIVE YEAR PLANS, SOCIALIST DIVISION OF LABOR AND ENERGY.

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNIQUE INCLUDE FERVENT BUT STANDARD PITCHES FOR DETENTE AND SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY. FAILURE TO MENTION MBFR WHILE TOUCHING ON CSCE IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING, GIVEN POLAND'S PRESENCE IN REDUCTION AREA. WE ALSO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT BREZHNEV LET GIEREK ESCAPE WITHOUT DISCUSSING ISSUES AFFECTING WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. SOME OF OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES SUGGESTED REFTEL A MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED UPON, BUT THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN TIME FOR MUCH DETAILED DISCUSSION.

5. IT IS INTERESTING THAT PRAVDA DECEMBER 18 CARRIED ENTHUSIASTIC ARTICLE ON CONSTRUCTION OF KATOWICE STEEL PLANT WHICH LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT SOVIETS REGARD THIS AS PROJECT BEING CONSTRUCTED WITH IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF GENEROUS SOVIET ASSISTANCE. LEADING OFF WITH SUB-HEADLINE THAT KATOWICZ WILL BE "NEW SYMBOL OF POLISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP," ARTICLE NOTES THAT "IT IS BEING ERECTED THROUGH THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF OUR COUNTRY." INTER ALIA, POLISH MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY LEYCHAK IS QUOTED AT LENGTH AS PRAISING BASIC EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, TRAINING WHICH KATOWICZ IS RECEIVING FROM "LAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SOVIETS." CZECHOSLOVAK AID ALSO MENTIONED. PLANT DESCRIBED AS "CLEAR EXAMPLE OF MUTUAL AID BY FRATERNAL COUNTRIES AND DEPTH OF SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION".

6. SUMMING UP, WE THINK THAT GIEREK VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF SECURING HIS FORMAL APPROVAL FOR SOME FORM OF OVERALL AGREEMENT INVOLVING SOVIET-POLISH TRADE AND TECHNICAL/ECONOMOIC

COOPERATION OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.
KATOWICE OIL DELIVERIES, ELECTRIC POWER AND A REVIEW
OF POLISH INTEREST IN ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH
WEST, INCLUDING JOINT VENTURES WITH WESTERN FIRMS,
COULD ALL HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.SOMMERLATTE

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